D-8613

F 201 A
G. 3000-2-36

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

CROSS-REFERENCE SLIP

Sp. Br. Registry. OFFICE

FILE NO. D 8613

SUBJECT:

CENTRAL AGENCY (Private Detective Agency)

PARTICULARS	OFFICE	FILE NO.
See also	Crime Regy.	E 2562
INSTRUCTIONS SEE OVER		

FM 2
G. 5000-9-38

File No.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.2 Special Branch

REPORT

Date Dec. 7 1938.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D.
Date

Subject: Chinese name for "Central Detective Agency", 20 Museum Road.

Made by: and

Forwarded by: Supt. Tan Shao Liang

None of the three proposed names are agreeable.

As suggested by D.I. Glover in his report dated August 12, 1938, the following characters : 中央私家偵探所 would be the correct designation for the Central Detective Agency and this was agreed to by Mr. Tonkin on August 15, 1938, but from the cards and printed documents used by the Agency, the characters "私家" (Private) were omitted contrary to original arrangement which is certainly misleading.

I suggest that the original name mentioned in D.I. Glover's report be used.

As to the identification cards the correct translation of an employee of the Detective Agency should be "僱員" and not "探員" which would create a wrong impression for a S.M.P. detective.

C.I.
please note & inform agency
forthwith & also give them
to understand that no recognition
whatsoever is afforded by the Police.
Attached cards can either be
destroyed in their presence or
kept in Hdqrs.

Tan Shao Liang
Superintendent.
D. C. (Special Branch)

DC Crime

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DEC. 1938
(CRIME BRANCH)

Information
Thos Robertson
DC (SB)

Mr. Leslie informed
accordingly.

Geo. B. Pryde
DSI.
9. 12. 38.

HEADQUARTERS CRIME BRANCH
C. G. 15000-5-38
No. 26/38
Date 10

Special Branch.

S.B. File No. D.8613.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

No. H.Q. C.I.B. Station,
Date Dec. 6, 1938.

REPORT

Subject CENTRAL DETECTIVE AGENCY, 20 MUSEUM ROAD.

Made by D.S.I. PRYDE Forwarded by D. I. GLOVER.

Sir,

With regard to the letter from the French Police dated Oct. 25th 1938, referring to an agent of the Central Agency having been shot dead in the French Concession and requesting that this Agency be warned that the activities of their agents would not be tolerated in the French Concession, also with reference to Louza F.I.R. 3562/38, re, an agent of the Central Agency being charged with "Intimidation", Mr. Tonkin, the foreign manager of this Agency, was called to C.B.H.Q. and warned regarding the activities of his agents. It was also explained to Mr. Tonkin that the Identification Cards carried by his agents, contained a lot of unnecessary particulars, which were misleading to the Chinese public, in that, it would lead the public to believe that the owners of these cards were Police Detectives. At that time Mr. Tonkin agreed to call in all these cards and issue new ones which would only bear the name of the agent concerned, his photograph, and a statement to the effect that he was an agent of the Central Agency.

However, on Oct. 28th a letter addressed to the Commissioner of Police, was received from Mr. Tonkin, stating that he had dis-associated himself with this Agency and was returning all the cards issued to the agents. Mr. Tonkin failed to return the cards and could not be located at the time.

On Nov. 4th 1938, a further letter addressed to the Commissioner of Police was received from the Central Agency to the effect that.

P.A. to D.C. (Sp. B.)

FM. 2
G. 15000-1-38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

Subject.....

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

(1) They had removed their office to 20 Museum Road.

(2) That Mr. A.H. Leslie had been appointed partner in this Agency in the place of Mr. C. Tonkin.

(3) That Mr. H. Waung still retained his partnership.

Mr. Leslie was called to C.B.H.Q. and informed of the past activities of certain of the agents employed by this Agency and warned against any similar activities in the future. He was also informed of the contents of the letter received from the French Police. He was instructed that the Identification cards in possession of the agents would have to be withdrawn and handed into the police, and any new Identification cards issued would have to have the approval of the Police.

On Nov. 24th 1938 a letter addressed to the undersigned was received from Mr. Leslie. Letter attached. In this letter Mr. Leslie suggests three new Chinese names for this Agency and asks which of these would be approved by the Police. Mr. Leslie was informed that no approval of any kind would be given by the police until such time as the Identification Cards as present in possession of the agents were handed in to the Police.

On the morning of 6.12.38 Mr. Leslie surrendered 34 of these Identification Cards to the undersigned and states that there are now, no more of these in use.

Regarding the suggested new Chinese names for this Agency, I respectfully suggest that they be submitted to Supt. Tam for perusal as to whether any of the three submitted would meet

FM 2
G. 15000-1-38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

Subject.....

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

with the approval of the Police and would not be misleading to the Chinese public.

Thirty four Identification Cards forwarded herewith.

H.C.S.
6/2/38

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

Geo. B. Wayne.

D. S. I.

HEADQUARTERS CRIME BRANCH
C. I. & 2. CELLANEOUS FILE
No. 36/38
Date Dec. 6 1938

S.B. File No. D.8613.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

H.Q. C.B. Station,
Date Dec. 6, 1938.

Subject CENTRAL DETECTIVE AGENCY, 20 MUSEUM ROAD.

Made by D.S.I. PRYDE Forwarded by D. I. GLOVER.

CRIME DIVISION
Misc Info Theng

D C CRIME
Information
H.S. Glover
D.S.
6 DEC. 1938

DC. (S.B).
Please ask Supt. Tan to check charges.
In any case we shall give no recognition whatever to this agency.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
7 DEC. 1938
CRIME BRANCH

Sir,

With regard to the letter from the French Police dated Oct. 25th 1938, referring to an agent of the Central Agency having been shot dead in the French Concession and requesting that this Agency be warned that the activities of their agents would not be tolerated in the French Concession, also with reference to Louza F.I.R. 3562/38, re, an agent of the Central Agency being charged with "Intimidation"; Mr. Tonkin, the foreign manager of this Agency, was called to C.B.H.Q. and warned regarding the activities of his agents. It was also explained to Mr. Tonkin that the Identification Cards carried by his agents, contained a lot of unnecessary particulars, which were misleading to the Chinese public, in that, it would lead the public to believe that the owners of these cards were Police Detectives. At that time Mr. Tonkin agreed to call in all these cards and issue new ones which would only bear the name of the agent concerned, his photograph, and a statement to the effect that he was an agent of the Central Agency.

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FM. 2
G. 15000-1-38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No......

REPORT

.....*Station,*

Date.....*19*

Subject.....

Made by..... *Forwarded by*.....

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FM. 2
G. 15000-1-38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

Subject.....

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

with the approval of the Police and would not be misleading to the Chinese public.

Thirty four Identification Cards forwarded herewith.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

Geo. B. Sayle.

D. S. I.

c/o CENTRAL AGENCY,
20, Museum Road,
Shanghai,

23rd November 1938.

Sub Inspector G.J.B.PRYDE,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
185, Foochow Road,
3rd Floor.
Shanghai.

Dear Mr. Pryde,

I am writing to you semi-officially regarding the result of the conversation I had with you in your office recently, in order to give you time to " digest " the following propositions which I wish to suggest.

CHINESE NAME OF CENTRAL AGENCY. I enclose three suggested names in Chinese characters. I do not read Chinese but am advised that the first one marked (1) would seem to be the most suitable for us to adopt. Should you approve of this, we will use nothing else on all our forms and stationery. Of course the foreign name of " Central Agency " will remain unchanged. Do you approve of No.1 or would you be kind enough to suggest something else ?

IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR OUR MEN. As soon as we have decided on the above, as regards what Chinese characters to use, I have advised the Central Agency to change all their present identification cards. The new identification cards are to only contain the information to the effect that the bearer of the card (giving his photo, number, name in Chinese and English) signed by myself and the Chinese Director, are in the employ of the Central Agency at No. 20, Museum Road. All the other details on the old cards we reporting to " station " if anything goes wrong, will be eliminated. As soon as the new cards are ready, we propose to let you see them all for record purposes, if you so desire, and keep you posted up to date should any further cards be issued.

M.TONKIN. I do not know where to locate him at present but as he apparently did not keep duplicates of his correspondence with the S.M.P. I am at a loss to know what has done or promised to do and what information is pending from him to you. May I suggest you let me have a rough list of all your requirements or information you were expecting from Tonkin and I will then do my best to get everything straightened out as soon as possible. What I would like to do is to cancel , if at all possible, all Tonkin's papers etc and commence a new record with us - of course I understand that there may be some matters which cannot be cancelled and must be settled right away. If this is the case, will you be kind enough to let me know what you require us to do to get things settled and I will do my best to assist you.

MY POSITION WITH THE CENTRAL AGENCY. As I am employed elsewhere during regular office hours, I am only assisting the Central Agency in my spare time in the capacity as " foreign adviser " I want you to know this so that you will be under no misapprehension as regards my position there. Of course I have been given full powers to act and sign for them.

Please give me a ring sometime when you are ready (at 13918 or 12670) and I will drop around to see you and have a chat with you.

Yours very truly,

A H Cercie.

中央偵探處

CENTRAL AGENCY

INQUIRY & PROTECTION

CABLE ADDRESS: CENGENCY

上海
仁記路八十一號
電話一三九一八

20 MUSEUM ROAD
XXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
TELEPHONE 13918
SHANGHAI

CENTRAL AGENCY
Inquiry & Protection

中央偵探保護所

中央世界偵探保護所

中央環球偵探保護所

Acknowledgment Sent E
Central Reg. 5/11/1938

中央偵探處

CENTRAL AGENCY

INQUIRY & PROTECTION
CABLE ADDRESS: CENGENCY

上海
仁記路八十一號
電話一三九一八

20, MUSEUM ROAD.
~~JINKEE ROAD~~
TELEPHONE 13918
SHANGHAI

4th NOVEMBER 1938.

THE COMMISSIONER,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
185, Foochow Road,
Shanghai.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
7 NOV. 1933
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Dear Sir,

With reference to our letter of the 21st June 1938, we beg to notify you of the following changes in this Agency :-

(1) Our former address at No.81, Jinkee Road is now cancelled and our new address is at No.20,Museum Road, 4th Floor, Shanghai.

Telehpone Number 13918 remains unchanged.

(2) We have now appointed Mr. ALEXANDER HUDDLESTON LESLIE (British) as a partner in this Agency, in the place of Mr. Chas. Tonkin (British)

(3) Mr. H.Wuang still retains his partnership as heretofore.

Will you therefore be kind enough to erase and rescind Mr. Tonkin's authority on our behalf in your records and recognize Mr. Leslie's authority (jointly and/or severally with Mr. H. Wuang) in all matters appertaining to the business of this Agency ?

Paragraphs 3,4 and 5 of our above-mentioned letter remain unchanged.

Should you require any further information, we shall be pleased to supply you with same upon hearing from you.

Requesting the favour of an acknowledgment of this letter at your early convenience,

Mr. A.H.Leslie will sign as follows :-

A.H. Leslie
.....

Yours faithfully,

CENTRAL AGENCY.

H Wuang
.....

Acknowledged E
Central Reg. 25/10/1938

中央偵探處

CENTRAL AGENCY

INQUIRY & PROTECTION
CABLE ADDRESS: CENGENCY

上海
仁記路八十一號
電話一三九一八

20 Museum Road.
~~91 JINKEE ROAD~~
TELEPHONE 13918
SHANGHAI

The Commissioner of Police,

Shanghai.

Sir,

Further to my conversation with your Headquarter's Detective Department, I am recalling all identification cards of the private detectives connected with this agency, same will be forwarded to your department . I am also dis-associating myself with this agency as soon as these cards have been collected and those cards which have not been returned will be listed.

I hope to have the above done at an early date.

Believe me.

Yours faithfully,

C. Sondin

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
28 OCT. 1938
(CRIME BRANCH)

TRANSLATION.

Shanghai, October 25, 1938

French Concession
Shanghai.

Police Headquarters.

No. 121/C.C.

Major K.M. Bourne, M.C.
Commissioner,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
Shanghai.

Dear Major Bourne,

On October 17, 1938 at 7.40 a.m. a man named LIOU DING SIEU was shot in the Seng Bing Li alleyway, rue du Consulat. This man was found in possession of a private detective card issued by the Central Agency, situated in room 210, 61 Jinkee Road.

According to information supplied to me, your force is already in possession of the data on this private detective agency, which appears to employ men of a suspicious character.

I have the honour, therefore, to request you to advise the Director of this agency to the effect that we shall not tolerate the activities of his employees in the French Concession.

Please accept, dear Major Bourne, etc.

Sd. R. Jobez
Acting Directeur des Services de Police.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
26 OCT. 1938
CRIME BRANCH

TRANSLATION.

Shanghai, October 25, 1938

French Concession
Shanghai.

Police Headquarters.

No. 121/C.C.

Major K.M. Bourne, M.C.
Commissioner,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
Shanghai.

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I have the honour, therefore, to request you to advise the Director of this agency to the effect that we shall not tolerate the activities of his employees in the French Concession.

Please accept, dear Major, Bourne, etc.

Sd. R. Jobez
Acting Directeur des Services de Police.

SERVICES DE POLICE

DIRECTION

N° 121/C.C.

Changhai, le 25 OCTOBRE 1938.

Major A... BOURNE, M.C.

Commissioner,

Shanghai Municipal Police,

CHANGHAI.

Cher Major Bourne,

Le 1er Octobre 1938 à 7 h 40, un nommé LIOU DING a été tué à coups de pistolet dans la cité Seng Sing Li, rue du Consulat. Cet individu a été trouvé porteur d'une carte de détective privé délivrée par la CENTRAL AGENCY, installée chambre 210, 61 Jinkee Road.

D'après les renseignements qui m'ont été communiqués, vos services possèdent déjà une documentation sur cette agence de police privée qui paraît n'employer que des individus assez s spects.

J'ai l'honneur en conséquence de vous prier de bien vouloir informer le directeur de cette agence que nous ne saurions tolérer les activités de ses employés dans la Concession Française.

Veuillez agréer, cher Major Bourne, l'assurance de mes meilleurs sentiments./.

Directeur des Services de Police p.i.

DC(Cs)
Draft reply
Keep DC(SpBr) informed.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
25 OCT. 1938
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

S.B. D. 8613.

Misc. File No. 761/38.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Louza Station,

Further REPORT

Date Sept. 28th, 1938.

Subject Alleged possession of property stolen from Wuchow.

Made by D.S.I. Black. Forwarded by [signature]

D. C. (Crime)

For Information

At 10 a.m. 23-9-38 Mr. C. Tonkin owner of the Central Detective Agency 81 Jinkee Road came to Louza Station and was interviewed by D.I. Bennett. He stated that the Central agency opened business during July 1938 and had been the subject of enquiries from H.Q. detectives.

With reference to the activities of the two detectives, Mr. Tonkin stated that he had no knowledge of any information in connection with this case and further that he had no instructions from any client regarding copper wire.

At 3.15 p.m. 23-9-38 Tsang Sung Jien, owner of the Sung Jien vegetable hong came to the Station and he was accompanied by one Zung Foh Ling.

Interrogation of these two people revealed that Zung Foh Ling(陳福林) is the owner of a brass-shop at Daung Tsi(湯西) in the vicinity of Hangchow.(He was in possession of a pass from the Japanese authorities testifying to this).

On the 21-9-38 he bought the copper wire from Hangchow on native boat which was transporting a load of sweet potatoes to the hong of Tsang Sung Jien, the wire was placed in the hong pending Zung Foh Ling finding a buyer for same.

Tsang Sung Jien has operated this vegetable long for the last 20 years and there is nothing known against his character by detectives at this Station, he stated that he has known Zung Foh Ling for some years and Zung in his opinion is quite an honest man.

While Zung Foh Ling could not produce any bills of sale in connection with the copper wire, the fact that he is in

For Deputy Commissioner Tonkin Submit

S.B. 8613

Orders for case approved when completed & these attached to destroy after removal of photos

Form of Confession he was in Tientsin

to solicitor

Bill not sufficient proof to charge

In Collusion with Public Police

CID

30 SEP 1938

G. 55M 1-38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

(2)

REPORT

.....Station,

Date 19

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

possession of a pass from the Japanese authorities lends credence to his story and as it has been proved that the wire is not the property of the Power Co. or Telephone Co. he has been allowed to remove it from the vegetable hong.

D.S.I.

Sen. ~~Det. 1/c~~

D.D.O. "A"

HEADQUARTERS CRIME BRANCH
MISCELLANEOUS FILE
No. 136/38
Date Sept. 27, 1938

Louza Misc. File No. 761/38
S. B. Reg. S.B. D.8613

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

H. Q. C. B. Station,
Date Sept. 27. 1938

Subject CENTRAL DETECTIVE AGENCY, 81 JINKEE ROAD.

Made by D.S.I. Pryde Forwarded by D.I. Glover

Sir,

Mr. Tonkin of the Central Detective Agency was called to C.D.H.Q. on 26-9-38 and informed that the identification cards issued to his agents were misleading and would have to be altered, as all the instructions on the back of these cards are unnecessary.

Mr. Tonkin has agreed to alter the cards and will submit one of the new cards to the Police for approval before issuing same to his agents.

Mr. Tonkin was also informed that the use of the Chinese characters "Teu Yeu" (detective) (探員) and "Chu" (Department) (處) are misleading and that it would be preferable to use the characters "私家偵探" S. Ka Tsung Teu (Private Detective) and " 所 " Soo (Agency) instead.

None of the agents employed by this firm are in possession of either pistols or pistol licences.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

Geo. B. Pryde.
D. S. I.

C. CRIME
Information
H. F. Glover
D 9
27/9/38

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
2 SEP 1938
(CRIME BRANCH)

G. 55M 1-38

INDEXED BY Sheng Date 24 1 9 38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

File No.

Station,

Date 19

Subject

Made by Forwarded by

D. C. (Cri)

(岳斌) (夏棟樑)

(陳炳毛)

(勝記)

(勝記)

C. I.
Ref. attached cards requiring to be made in proper and wording on card is misleading & must be altered. Please see agency in ques. File 1st letters to D.D.O.A.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER 23 SEP 1938 (CRIME BRANCH)

copper wire laced there. Enquiries were made to trace the hong master could be located, in order that he could be questioned as to the ownership of the property but no information could be obtained.

While detectives were making enquiries at the hong, a member of the River Police, Boat Officer Houpt and two Chinese assistants arrived on the scene, stating that they had received information about a shipment of stolen property which had been concealed in a cargo of sweet potatoes from Pootung. Houpt was shown the

FM 2 1
G. 55M 1 38

File No.....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

.....Station,

REPORT

Date 19

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

Representative of Shanghai Power & Telephone Co will be requested to inspect and is possibility that it is their property.

attached for information of H.Q. enquiries will be made as the staff management of this destitute agency.

E. B. Blackall.
D.S.I.

(CRIME).

FM. 2
G. 55M-1-36

C.I.Misc. File No. 136/38
S.B.D. 8613.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

H. Q. C. B. Station, 8613

Date August 12, 1938.

Subject CNETRAL DETECTIVE AGENCY, 81 JINKEE ROAD.

Made by D.S.I. PRYDE Forwarded by D. I. GLOVER.

Sir,

Mr. Tonkin was interviewed on the morning of 7.8.38 and informed that the Chinese name of his agency was misleading, as it could be understood to mean that it was a department of the Police Force.

Mr. Tonkin agreed to change the name and on 9.8.38 submitted the following as the proposed new name : -

"中央偵探保護

As this also appears to be misleading, it was suggested to Mr. Tonkin by the undersigned that he should adopt the following name : -

"中央私家偵探所"

Supt Lowe states this is quite O.K. JR

Mr. Tonkin now agrees to use the latter name with the exception of the last character and proposes to substitute the character "處" in its stead.

Two letters from Mr. Tonkin attached.

D. C. CRIME
Information
D. I. Glover
D.I.
12/8/38

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

Geo. B. Pryde.
D. S. I.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
12 AUG. 1938
(CRIME BRANCH)

Sir,
Mr Tonkin now agrees to use the character "Sou" 所 Geo. B. Pryde D.S.I. 15/8/38.

Sir,
The character "Chu" 處 proposed by Mr. Tonkin would be taken to mean "Department" and is by no means a correct designation of the "Agency". I think we should insist on its being altered to "Sou" 所 the same term as used by Clarke's Agency.
Jas Gowling Supt. 17/8

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
13 AUG. 1938
(CRIME BRANCH)

FILE

中央偵探處

CENTRAL AGENCY

INQUIRY & PROTECTION
CABLE ADDRESS: CENGENCY

上海
仁記路八十一號
電話一三九一八

81 JINKEE ROAD
TELEPHONE 13918
SHANGHAI

Shanghai, 11th. Aug. 1938.

G. B. Pryde Esq.,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
Headquarters.

Sir,

We thank you for the suggestion of the characters as contained in your letter of yesterday's date, we shall adopt same with the exception of the last character 所 and use the character 處 and hope this will be agreeable to your department, thus reading :- 中央私家偵探處

Yours truly,

C. Lassin

Hurong

中央偵探處

CENTRAL AGENCY

INQUIRY & PROTECTION
CABLE ADDRESS: CENGENCY

上海
仁記路八十一號
電話一三九一八

81 JINKEE ROAD
TELEPHONE 13918
SHANGHAI

Shanghai, 9th. August, 1938.

The Commissioner of Police,
Shanghai Municipal Council.

Sir,

Upon request, we submit the following characters as our Agency's name in Chinese :-

中央偵探保護處

and hope same is acceptable, and if so, we will have our sign board and letter heading immediately changed.

Yours very truly,
CENTRAL AGENCY.

中央松象偵探所

F.M. 2
G. 55M-1-38

File No.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.2 Special Branch ~~Section~~ 8613

REPORT

Date August 5 1938.

Subject Central Detective Agency, 81 Jinkee Road.

Made by and Forwarded by Supt. Tan Shao Liang.

A number of Chinese have made enquiries of the undersigned as to whether the S.M.P. are recruiting new detectives amongst outsiders and whether the office at No.81 Jinkee Road which bears the name of "Central Detective Agency" has any connection with Police Headquarters. The Chinese name of the Central Detective Agency(中央偵探處) is somewhat misleading as when translated it means "Central Detective Office" or the "Detective Office of Police Headquarters" If the word "Private" can be added, there will probably be no misunderstanding.

A Chinese gentleman whose name card is attached enquired whether it is true that persons serving in this detective agency will be taken on as a regular detective by the S.M.P. and upon being informed in the negative he stated that some of his friends who are interested will not now join the agency.

Tan Shao Liang
Superintendent.

D. C. (Special Branch)

DC. Crime
I think D.S.I. Rhind reported on this Agency. As Supt. Tan points out its style or name is very misleading
J. H. S. Robertson
DC (SB)

中央偵探處
CENTRAL AGENCY
INQUIRY & PROTECTION

上海
仁記路八十一號
電話一三九一八

MUNICIPAL POLICE
REGISTRY
S. B. D.
81 JINKEE ROAD
TEL. 13918
SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI, 21st. June 1938.

The Commissioner of Police,
Crime Dept. Foochow Road.
Shanghai.

Sir,

We beg to advise you that we have established ourselves at the above address, Room No. 210, to do business as private inquiry and protection agents, similar to that of Clarke's Agency, with the addition of estate management and rent collections.

Our partners are Mr. Chas. Tonkin (British) and Mr. Hatchel Tsung (Chinese).

For our protection business it will be necessary for our guards to be armed, and we shall therefore apply in the usual manner. Naturally we will take full responsibility for the actions of our guards.

In the course of our business should any information regarding crime come to our knowledge, we shall be only toopleased to inform your department immediately.

Rent and Bill collections, commercial information and inquiries will be in the usual line of business.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
CENTRAL AGENCY,
C. Tonkin

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
21 JUNE 1938
SPECIAL BRANCH

See also:— E445; D4465; D640; 90961

D.S. Henchman 21/6

July 5, 1938.

Central Agency, Room No.210, 81 Jinkee Road.

With reference to the attached letter dated June 21, 1938 from Mr. C. Tonkin, Central Agency, with an office at Room 210, 81 Jinkee Road, I have to report that careful enquiries go to show that the personnel of this concern lack the necessary qualifications to operate a private detective bureau and are otherwise of very doubtful reputation.

The writer of the letter is Mr. Charles Tonkin who describes himself as the principal partner in the business. He is a British subject of pure English parentage and was born in Shanghai in 1887. He is in possession of British passport No. 89 issued in Peking on January 27, 1923.

Charles Tonkin joined the outdoor staff of the Asiatic Petroleum Company in or about 1910 and rose to the position of District Inspector. In 1923 when he was attached to the Chengchow branch of the company he was dismissed for general dishonesty involving the systematic embezzlement of the company's funds, a fact which I have verified in the course of my enquiries. He came to Shanghai from Peking in 1923 and for the summer season of 1924 was State Manager of the Mokanshan Mountain Resort. A testimonial in his possession, signed by Mr. R.M. White, secretary of the Mokanshan Summer Resort Association, show that his services were terminated at the close of the 1924 season owing to a change in the political status of Mokanshan. In 1925 he was associated with an American Jew named Rosenberg in a so-called Import and Export firm known as the "Rosenberg China Coy" which had its offices in the D.K.K. Building 110 Szechuen Road. This firm, purchased a leather factory opposite Jessfield Park in which Tonkin claims to have invested $10,000. It appears that this venture proved a failure for lack of sufficient capital and the factory closed down in 1926. Tonkin estimates that his losses through his association

with Rosenberg amounted in all to $5,500. A well-informed American citizen of my acquaintance, however, states on good authority that Tonkin and Rosenberg were in reality engaged in the illicit export of morphine to the U.S.A. and that their business venture was simply a "front" to cover up their actual activities. While the U.S. Authorities appear to have no record of either Rosenberg or Tonkin, I am convinced as to the truth of my information and it is a significant fact that Tonkin's younger brother Mathew Tonkin was arrested in Hongkong in 1924 for smuggling a quantity of marphine into the Colony from Europe in concert with a Russian Jew named Moses L. Samsanovitch. From all accounts, it seems that the morphine was smuggled into Hongkong inside the tubing of a shipment of bedsteads of which Mathew Tonkin was the consignee. Mathew Tonkin was appropriately charged for this offence before the Police Court in Hongkong and was sentenced to seven months' imprisonment, whilst it appears that no action was taken against Samsanovitch for lack of sufficient evidence of his complicity. While on the subject of Mathew Tonkin, it should also be mentioned that he was in some way implicated in the operation of a Red Pills factory situated at 20 Tongshan Road in the early part of 1935 (Vide F.I.R. 42/35 Chengtu Road) but no action was taken against him on the advice of Messrs. Hansons who contended that there was insufficient evidence to support a charge.

For several years after his business venture with Rosenberg who incidentally is now in America, Charles Tonkin does not appear to have been in steady employment. In 1930, however, he secured a job with Messrs. Jardine and Matheson as a purser and served in this capacity on the s.s. "Tungwo" until March 18, 1931 when he was made to resign. He is in possession of a letter from this company stating that his services were dispensed with owing to reduction of staff but confidential enquiries elicit the information that he was in actual fact dismissed for mismanaging the ship's funds.

Latterly he has been associated with a German mining engineer named Kuscha, who now has an office at 15 Museum Road and who appears to be a reputable person. In the summer of 1937 he and Kuscha were interested in some mining project in Anhwei but were compelled to abandon it upon the outbreak of hostilities.

Tonkin has been a member of the S.V.C. [redacted] at different intervals since 1903 and served with this corps in 1937 for the duration of the hostilities.

Tonkin has established the Central Agency in partnership with a Chinese named Hatchel Waung alias Waung Chi (汪 清) aged 35, native of Nanking. This individual about a month ago started a business under the signboard of "Linsen Trading Coy" in Room No.4, 280 Peking Road for the purpose of dealing in insecticides priced at 20 cents per tin. Very little business appears to be done by this so-called company and a cheque for $40 paid by Waung for the rental of the room was dishonoured owing to lack of sufficient funds in his account. Waung claims to have been educated at the Tsoong Yang Military Academy, Nanking and to have held the post of Commander-in-Chief of the 18th Division of Chiang Kai Shek's Army in Foochow until May 1937 when he resigned and came to Shanghai. It is however very doubtful if this individual ever held such a prominent position or even that he served in the Nationalist Army.

Tonkin states that he proposes to operate his agency on the same lines as Clark's Agency. Among other things, he hopes in due course to acquire an armoured car for the purpose of transporting bullion and valuable property and to man the vehicle with two Russian guards armed with pistols. He also will engage in the collection of rents on behalf of Chinese landlords and to carry out enquiries of a private and confidential nature at the instance of client.

During my visit to the offices of the Central Agency,

I observed that there were seven or eight rather suspicious looking characters sitting in the waiting room. On my way out I asked Tonkin whether they were members of his staff and he replied that they were not and explained that they had called to give information about the transportation of opium from Hongkew by a gang which had double crossed them. I sought further particulars about this matter but Tonkin evaded the question stating that his partner Hatchal Waung was handling the case and that he would let me know if there was any truth in their information. The appearance of these individual certainly gave me a rather bad impression and made me feel that Tonkin was up to some shady business.

Quite apart from the presence of these unsavoury characters, it became quite evident to me during my interview with Tonkin that he is more familiar with the ramifications of opium smuggling than he is with the technique of operating an enquiry agency on legitimate lines. I consider that he is by no means a fit and proper man to operate such an agency and that the Police would be well advised to deny him the right to handle applications for pistol licences on behalf of individuals who do wish to come to the Police direct and to refuse to issue pistol licenses to members of his staff or to grant him any facilities normally enjoyed by a business of this kind.

For the moment the Central Agency is being kept under close surveillance and should it transpire that it is in fact a blind for opium or narcotic transactions I suggest that steps be taken to close it down.